

IC3700 RANDOLPH

Organization

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMISSION

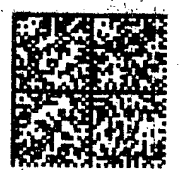
P.O. BOX 1450

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

IF UNDELIVERABLE RETURN IN TEN DAYS

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



U.S. OFFICIAL MAIL
PERMIT NO. 100
ALEXANDRIA, VA
0004204479
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 22314
\$00.870
OCT 31 2/006
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
PRIMEV BOWERS

RECEIVED
DEC 04 2006
USPTO MAIL CENT

Handwritten mark resembling a stylized 'S' or '15'.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

7590

10/31/2006

CHRIS JAMES
EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES LLC
ONE EDWARDS WAY
IRVINE, CA 92614



EXAMINER

ISABELLA, DAVID J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3738

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2006

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/775,677	02/05/2001	Jan Otto Solem	JM-050 CIP	3473

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR TREATMENT OF MITRAL INSUFFICIENCY

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$0	\$1700	01/31/2007

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.
- B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or
- B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

7590

10/31/2006

CHRIS JAMES
EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES LLC
ONE EDWARDS WAY
IRVINE, CA 92614

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/775,677	02/05/2001	Jan Otto Solem	JM-050 CIP	3473

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR TREATMENT OF MITRAL INSUFFICIENCY

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$0	\$1700	01/31/2007

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
ISABELLA, DAVID J	3738	623-002370

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).
☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form. PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
 (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/775,677	02/05/2001	Jan Otto Solem	JM-050 CIP	3473
.7590		10/31/2006	EXAMINER	
CHRIS JAMES		ISABELLA, DAVID J		
EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES LLC		ART UNIT		
ONE EDWARDS WAY		PAPER NUMBER		
IRVINE, CA 92614		3738		
DATE MAILED: 10/31/2006				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 0 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 0 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/775,677

Examiner

DAVID J. ISABELLA

Applicant(s)

SOLEM ET AL.

Art Unit

3738

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/25/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,5,16,17,22,25-27,30,32-40,74 and 86-88.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 8/25/06; 3/16/09
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art fails to disclose and/or teach the combination a device for treatment of mitral annulus dilatation, comprising an elongate body dimensioned to be inserted into the coronary sinus having at least one stent section at a distance from each end of the elongate body wherein the stent section provides a reduction of its length when expanded such that elongate body is shortened and bent to a smaller radius of curvature and wherein the elongate body exhibits two states, in a first of which the elongate body has a shape that is adaptable to the shape of the coronary sinus, and to the second of which the elongate body is transferable from said first state assuming a reduced radius of curvature whereby the radius of curvature of the coronary sinus is reduced along with the circumference of the mitral valve annulus, when the elongate body is positioned in the coronary sinus.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

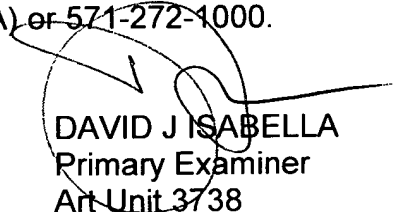
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID J. ISABELLA whose telephone number is 571-272-4749. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-FRIDAY.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, CORRINE MCDERMOTT can be reached on 571-272-4754. The fax phone

Art Unit: 3738

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



DAVID J ISABELLA
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3738

DJI
10/25/2006

IDS 08/25/2006

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	09775677
Filing Date	2001-02-05
First Named Inventor	Jan Otto Solem et al.
Art Unit	3738
Examiner Name	David J. Isabella
Attorney Docket Number	PVI-5697CIP/49988/E303

U.S. PATENTS[Remove](#)

Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Patent Number	Kind Code ¹	Issue Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
DI	1	5441515		1995-08-15	Khosravi et al.	
DI	2	5449373		1995-09-12	Pinchasik et al.	
DI	3	5531779		1996-07-02	Dahl et al.	
DI	4	6006122		1999-12-21	Smits	
DI	5	6013854		2000-01-11	Moriuchi	

If you wish to add additional U.S. Patent citation information please click the Add button.

[Add](#)**U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS**[Remove](#)

Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Publication Number	Kind Code ¹	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1					

If you wish to add additional U.S. Published Application citation information please click the Add button.

[Add](#)**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**[Remove](#)

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	09775677
Filing Date	2001-02-05
First Named Inventor	Jan Otto Solem et al.
Art Unit	3738
Examiner Name	David J. Isabella
Attorney Docket Number	PVI-5697CIP/49988/E303

Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Foreign Document Number ³	Country Code ²	Kind Code ⁴	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁵
DI	1	0688545	EP	A1	1995-12-27	Moriuchi		<input type="checkbox"/>

If you wish to add additional Foreign Patent Document citation information please click the Add button

NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, pages(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁵
	1		<input type="checkbox"/>

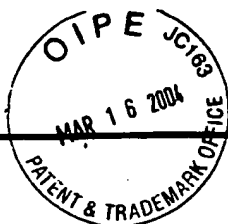
If you wish to add additional non-patent literature document citation information please click the Add button

EXAMINER SIGNATURE

Examiner Signature	/David Isabella/	Date Considered	10/27/2006
--------------------	------------------	-----------------	------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through a citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.USPTO.GOV or MPEP 901.04. ² Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ³ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁴ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁵ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.



FORM PTO/SB/08A/B (10-01)
Substitute for PTO-1449A/B

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Attorney Docket Number	ECV 597CIP/49988/MEG/E303
Application Number	09/775,677
Filing Date	February 5, 2001
Applicant(s)	Jan O. Solem, et al.
Group Art Unit	3738
Examiner Name	Urmi Chattopadhyay

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. ¹	DOCUMENT NUMBER Number - Kind Code ² (If Known)	PUBLICATION DATE MM-DD-YYYY	NAME OF PATENTEE
DI		US 2002/0124857 A1	09-12-2002	Schroeppel
		4,655,771	04-07-1987	Wallsten
		5,064,435	11-12-1991	Porter
		5,163,955	11-17-1992	Love et al.
		5,383,892	01-24-1995	Cardon et al.
		5,824,071	10-20-1998	Nelson et al.
		5,911,732	06-15-1999	Hojeibane
		5,980,552	11-09-1999	Pinchasik et al.
DI		6,203,556	03-20-2001	Evans et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (If Known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	T ⁶ (✓)
DI		DE 196 05 042 A1	01-15-1998	Gleich Anmelder	
		DE 196 11 755 A1	02-05-1998	Gleich Anmelder	
		EP 0 727 239 A2	08-21-1996	Ockuly et al.	
		WO 00/41649	07-20-2000	Kocur	
		WO 01/00111 A1	01-04-2001	Solem et al.	
		WO 01/54618 A1	08-02-2001	Langberg et al.	
		WO 01/85061 A2	11-15-2001	Shapland et al.	
		WO 01/89426 A1	11-29-2001	Andrieu et al.	
		WO 02/076284 A2	10-03-2002	Cohn et al.	
		WO 02/078576 A2	10-10-2002	Liddicoat et al.	
DI		WO 02/096275 A2	12-05-2002	Cohn et al.	

EXAMINER SIGNATURE	/David Isabella/	DATE CONSIDERED	10/27/2006
--------------------	------------------	-----------------	------------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.pto.gov or MPEP 901.4. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English Language Translation is attached.

Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



FORM PTO/SB/08A/B (10-01) Substitute for PTO-1449A/B INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)	Attorney Docket Number	ECV 597CIP/49988/MEG/E303
	Application Number	09/775,677
	Filing Date	February 5, 2001
	Applicant(s)	Jan O. Solem, et al.
	Group Art Unit	3738
	Examiner Name	Urmi Chattopadhyay

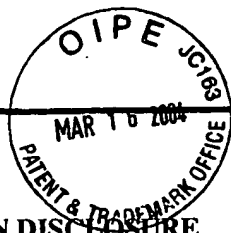
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (If Known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	T ⁶ (✓)
DI		WO 02/062263 A2	08-15-2002	Cohn et al.	
DI		WO 96/40356	12-19-1996	Whayne et al.	

OTHER DOCUMENTS		
EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article, title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.
DI		European Patent Office Office action dated December 22, 2003 for Application No. 00 946 661.6 - 2310
DI		Written Opinion dated November 8, 2002 for International application No. PCT/EP01/10371
DI		International Search Report dated April 23, 2002 for International application No. PCT/EP 01/10371
DI		International Search Report dated March 15, 2000
DI		International Search Report dated October 9, 2002 for National application No. 0200073-5
DI		International Search Report dated June 5, 2003 for International application No. PCT/EP 02/14655

CKS PAS554558.1-*03/11/04 2:37 PM

EXAMINER SIGNATURE	/David Isabella/	DATE CONSIDERED	10/27/2006
<small>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.pto.gov or MPEP 901.4. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English Language Translation is attached.</small>			

Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



FORM PTO/SB/08A/B (10-01)
Substitute for PTO-1449A/B

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Attorney Docket Number

ECV 597CIP/49988/MEG/E303

Application Number

09/775,677

Filing Date

February 5, 2001

Applicant(s)

Jan O. Solem, et al.

Group Art Unit

3738

Examiner Name

Urmi Chattopadhyay

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. ¹	DOCUMENT NUMBER Number - Kind Code ² (If Known)	PUBLICATION DATE MM-DD-YYYY	NAME OF PATENTEE
DI		4,954,126	09-04-1990	Wallsten
		5,061,275	10-29-1991	Wallsten et al.
		5,534,007	07-09-1996	St. Germain et al.
		5,571,135	11-05-1996	Fraser et al.
		5,713,949	02-03-1998	Jayaraman
		6,027,525	02-22-2000	Suh et al.
DI		6,350,277 B1	02-26-2002	Kocur

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ² - Number ³ - Kind Code ⁴ (If Known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	T ⁵ (✓)

OTHER DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article, title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.
DI		LAAKSOVIRTA et al., <i>Expansion and bioabsorption of the self-reinforced lactic and glycolic acid copolymer prosthetic spiral stent</i> , PubMed, Excerpt from J Urol 2001 Sep; 166(3):919-22, one sheet
DI		LIU et al., <i>Sutural expansion osteogenesis for management of the bony-tissue defect in cleft palate repair: experimental studies in dogs</i> , PubMed, Excerpt from Plast Reconstr Surg 2000 May; 105(6):2012-25; discussion 2026-7, two sheets
DI		YONEYAMA et al., <i>Super-elastic property of Ti-Ni alloy for use in dentistry</i> , PubMed, Excerpt from Front Med Biol Eng 2000; 10(2):97-103, one sheet
DI		KOTIAN, <i>Shape memory effect and super elasticity it's dental applications</i> , PubMed, Excerpt from Indian J Dent Res 2001 Apr-Jun; 12(2):101-4, one sheet
DI		KUO et al., <i>The use of nickel-titanium alloy in orthopedic surgery in China</i> , PubMed, Excerpt from Orthopedics 1989 Jan; 12(1):111-6, one sheet

EXAMINER SIGNATURE	/David Isabella/	DATE CONSIDERED	10/27/2006
--------------------	------------------	-----------------	------------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.pto.gov or MPEP 901.4. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English Language Translation is attached.

Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



FORM PTO/SB/08A/B (10-01)
Substitute for PTO-1449A/B

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Attorney Docket Number

ECV 597CIP/49988/MEG/E303

Application Number

09/775,677

Filing Date

February 5, 2001

Applicant(s)

Jan O. Solem, et al.

Group Art Unit

3738

Examiner Name

Urmi Chattopadhyay

OTHER DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article, title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.
DI		CIVJAN et al., <i>Potential applications of certain nickel-titanium (nitinol) alloys</i> , PubMed, Excerpt from J Dent Res 1975 Jan-Feb;54(1):89-96, one sheet
DI		BRENNAN, <i>SUITE OF SHAPE-MEMORY POLYMERS</i> , http://pubs.acs.org/cen/topstory/7906notw1.html , News of the Week Materials, February 5, 2001, Volume 79, Number 6, Ceneer 79 6 pp.5, ISSN 0009-2347, Mairin Brennan, three sheets
DI		STIKEMAN, <i>Total Recall</i> , Technology Review - Innovation: Total Recall, An MIT Enterprise Technology Review, June 2001, two sheets

CKS PASS54577.1-03/11/04 4:57 PM

EXAMINER SIGNATURE	/David Isabella/	DATE CONSIDERED	10/27/2006
<small>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.pto.gov or MPEP 901.4. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English Language Translation is attached.</small>			

Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MEG/cks

Sheet 2 of 2